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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/599,866	10/12/2006	Stein Kuiper	GB 040089	5839

24737 7590 01/09/2008
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS
P.O. BOX 3001
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER

MARTINEZ, JOSEPH P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2873

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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01/09/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/599,866	KUIPER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joseph Martinez	2873	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 October 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10-9-07</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being fully anticipated by Berge et al. (6369954).

Re claim 1, Berge et al. teaches for example in fig. 1 and 3, a variable focus lens comprising: a container (12) enclosing an insulating liquid (11) and a conducting liquid (13), the insulating liquid and the conducting liquid being immiscible (abstract), having different refractive indices (abstract) and being in contact with each other via an interface (fig. 1), the liquids being at least partially placed in a light path (optical axis, 0) through the container (fig. 1); an electrode arrangement (16, 17) for controlling the shape of the interface (from A to B) by means of a voltage (V); the container further comprising a transparent end portion (12 at 15) in the light path (fig. 1), a part (flat portion of 12 at 15; fig. 1) of the transparent end portion defining the shape of a part of the interface (interface between 11 and 13 contacting 12 at 15; fig. 1) at a predefined voltage (V; col. 3, ln. 33-38).

Re claim 3, Berge et al. teaches for example in fig. 1 and 3, an electronic device comprising: a variable focus lens comprising: a container (12) enclosing an insulating liquid (11) and a conducting liquid (13), the insulating liquid and the conducting liquid being immiscible (abstract), having different refractive indices (abstract) and being in contact with each other via an interface (fig. 1), the liquids being at least partially placed in a light path through the container (optical axis, 0); an electrode arrangement (16, 17) for controlling the shape of the interface (from A to B) by means of a voltage (V); the container further comprising a transparent end portion (12 at 15) in the light path, a part (flat portion of 12 at 15; fig. 1) of the transparent end portion defining the shape of a part of the interface (interface between 11 and 13 contacting 12 at 15; fig. 1) at a predefined voltage (V; col. 3, ln. 33-38); and driver circuitry (means to control 16 and 17) coupled to the electrode arrangement (16, 17), the driver circuitry being arranged to: apply the predefined voltage (V) across the electrode arrangement (16, 17) in an idle state of the variable focus lens (col. 5, ln. 24-27); and apply a further voltage (V) across the electrode arrangement (16, 17) for separating the interface from the transparent end portion (12 at 15) when the variable focus lens is enabled (col. 5, ln. 22-24):

Re claim 2, Berge et al. further teaches for example in fig. 1 and 3, the predefined value (V) of the applied voltage is 0V (col. 5, ln. 25).

Re claim 4, Berge et al. further teaches for example in fig. 1 and 3, the further voltage (V) is a further predefined voltage (col. 5, ln. 24-25).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berge et al. (6369954) in view of Nagaoka et al. (6934090).

Re claim 5, supra claim 3. Furthermore, Berge et al. further teaches for example in fig. 1 and 3, varying use in optoelectronic systems.

But, Berge et al. fails to explicitly teach the electronic device further comprises an image sensor for sensing light passing through the variable focus lens, the image sensor being arranged to provide the driver circuitry with an output signal by controlling the magnitude of the further voltage.

However, within the same field of endeavor, Nagaoka et al. teaches for example in fig. 14, the electronic device further comprises an image sensor (41) for sensing light passing through the variable focus lens (10), the image sensor being arranged to provide the driver circuitry (47) with an output signal (col. 12, ln. 50-53) by controlling the magnitude of the further voltage (abstract).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Berge et al. with the teachings of Nagaoka et al. in order to provide a compact optical system for capturing an image, as taught by Nagaoka et al., (col. 12, ln. 53-57).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph P. Martinez whose telephone number is 571-272-2335. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Mack can be reached on 571-272-2333. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Joseph Martinez/
Patent Examiner, AU 2873
1-6-08